

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C.

May 20, 1881.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,
Superintendent U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst. is received,
and upon comparison of the letters of this office
of the 13th inst. and April 15th, it does not seem
to me that they conflict, nor that either
needs to be modified to harmonize them.

The general principle quoted by you from
my letter that as far as practicable it
is desirable, even if it occasions more trouble,

that this appropriation should pay only such portion of the expense as is actually incurred in connection with the coinage of silver dollars" is certainly correct.

As you are coining both gold and silver, I questioned in my letter of May 7th, the propriety of paying the entire monthly expenses of wages of workmen from the appropriation for the coinage of the standard silver dollar, as was done in the Melter and Refiner's and Engraver's departments for the previous month. The explanation that

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that it was done to avoid a division of the rolls, did not seem to me sufficient reason, and although I approved of the account as it stood, I expressed the preference that the rolls for each month be divided, and only such portion be paid from this fund as is properly chargeable to it.

I did not intend by the last clause to restrict the payment from the standard silver dollar appropriation to the actual expense of the month in the coinage of the standard silver dollar.

In approving of your requisition for

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for this month for an advance of \$20,000 from the appropriation for the coinage of the standard silver dollar, I saw that it would be necessary to pay about \$11,000 of the wages of workmen from that appropriation, and \$21,000 from the specific appropriation, as but \$42,000 of the latter remained, and expected that payments would be made proportionately from both appropriations as near as conveniently might be in all the departments.

This will make additional labor

in

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in preparing rolls and paying the
workmen, but is preferable.

Very respectfully,

Horatio B. Mchord

Director,

510

D. M.

Wash D. C.

May 20/81

H. C. Burchard.

After further ex-
planation, reiterated
his instructions to ap-
portion payments from
the regular, & S. S. D.
appropriation, and to
divide the pay rolls.

Recd May 21. 81

[Abstract:] After further explanation, reintegrated his instructions to apportion payments... 510

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In approving of your requisition for this month for an advance of \$20,000 from the appropriation for the coinage of the standard silver dollar, I saw that it would be necessary to pay about \$11,000 of the wages of workmen from that appropriation, and \$21,000 from the specific appropriation, as but \$42,000 of the latter remained, and expected that payments would be made proportionally from both appropriations as near as conveniently might be in all the departments.

This will make additional labor in preparing rolls and paying the workmen, but is preferable.

Very respectfully,
Horatio C. Burchard
Director.